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Venezuela-Guyana: Venezuelan officials intend to step up their psychological warfare campaign against the Guyanese Government to secure the return of the disputed Essequibo region to Venezuela.

In a long, emotional diatribe, Minister of Interior Leandro Mora told a US Embassy officer on 13 January that Venezuela is ready to take action unless Guyana moves within 15 days to end its "inhuman treatment" of the Essequibo Amerindians. There is no confirmation, however, that such a threat has been delivered to Georgetown.

Leandro said that in any case his government intends to undertake a "peaceful program" to stimulate knowledge within Essequibo of Venezuela's claim to the area. A powerful radio transmitter will be built and fixed-frequency transistor radios will be distributed to the Essequibo natives so that they can receive the programs. A simultaneous effort will be made in Venezuela to ensure that the public becomes and remains fully conscious of Venezuela's claims.

Although a new Christian Democratic administration will be inaugurated in early March, Leandro said that if incoming President Caldera fails to carry through with these plans, the Democratic Action Party will attempt to force him to do so.

While acknowledging there would be adverse international reaction against a unilateral move by Venezuela, Leandro said that his country cares nothing about the international organizations. He cited the ineffectiveness of the OAS on the issue of Cuban aggression against Venezuela and predicted that the UN would be equally ineffective.

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Nigeria: Further strains on US-Nigeria relations seem probable as a result of developments in the Biafran relief issue.

In a recent meeting with the US ambassador in Lagos, Federal leader Gowon vehemently denounced all foreign relief agencies and stressed that, although he understood the US position on relief, the Nigerian people regard US support for relief agencies as support for Biafra.

Yesterday Nigerian Government sources leaked to the press in Lagos the essence of a US note which strongly urged--Lagos characterized it as "demanded"--a resumption of the Red Cross flights from Equatorial Guinea to Biafra. This action, taken in advance of any official response to the US note, could touch off new anti-US manifestations in Nigeria. A strong official reply will probably follow.

The suspension of the Red Cross flights leaves the Biafran relief airlift in the hands of voluntary agencies which are open to charges of being pro-Biafran because they operate from Sao Tome and Gabon, from where arms are being flown to the secessionists.

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